UNITED
NATIONS

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Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/CN.6/1996/L.1
15 March 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Fortieth session
11-22 March 1996
Agenda item 3

POLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Argentina*, Azerbaijan*, Bangladesh*, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Cambodia*, Ecuador, Egypt*, Georgia*, Kuwait*, Kyrgyzstan*, Malaysia, Mozambique*, Pakistan*, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey*, Turkmenistan*, United Arab Emirates*, Uzbekistan* and Zimbabwe*: draft resolution

Release of women and children taken hostage in armed conflicts and imprisoned

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling its resolution 39/2 of 31 March 1995,

Recalling the relevant provisions contained in the instruments of international humanitarian law relative to the protection of women and children in areas of armed conflict,

Welcoming the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 1/ by the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 4-15 September 1995), inter alia, their provisions regarding violence against women and children,

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* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

1/ Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (A/CONF.177/20), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

Expressing grave concern at the continuation of armed conflicts in many regions throughout the world and at the human suffering and humanitarian emergencies that they have caused,

Stressing that all forms of repression and cruel and inhuman treatment of women and children committed by belligerents in the course of military operations or in occupied territories, including taking them hostage, their imprisonment, the destruction of their dwellings and their forcible eviction, should be considered criminal,

Emphasizing that all forms of violence committed against women and children in areas of armed conflict, including capturing them as hostages, seriously contravene international humanitarian law,

Expressing its strong belief that the rapid and unconditional release of women and children taken hostage in areas of armed conflict will promote the implementation of the noble goals enshrined in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,

1. Condemns violence against women and children in areas of armed conflict, recognizing it as a violation of international humanitarian law, and calls for a particularly effective response to violations of this kind, including the immediate release of women and children taken hostage in areas of armed conflict;

2. Strongly urges all parties to conflicts to immediately release all women and children taken hostage in areas of armed conflict;

3. Also urges all parties to conflicts to provide information and unimpeded access to specialized assistance for women and children that are taken hostage in areas of armed conflict;

4. Requests the Secretary-General and all relevant international agencies to use all their capabilities and efforts to facilitate the release of all women and children taken hostage in areas of armed conflict;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-first session.